



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

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AMERICAN SPRING AT RETAIL

Spring 2003

FI focuses in on five New York designers as the ones to watch at retail. They are Marc Jacobs, Alease Fisher, Narciso Rodriguez, and Alice Roi. We've also included Lilly Pulitzer, who put on a real crowd-pleaser of a show. Although diverse, all five designers fully understand the cardinal rule of being successful: stay true to your roots

and devote your energy to making clothes your clients want to wear.

To round out the season we also spoke with Chris Gilbert and Robin Givhan. Gilbert is a Creative Director of the Doneger Group and one of the industry's leading analysts. He's highlighted his top picks

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CHARM SCHOOL

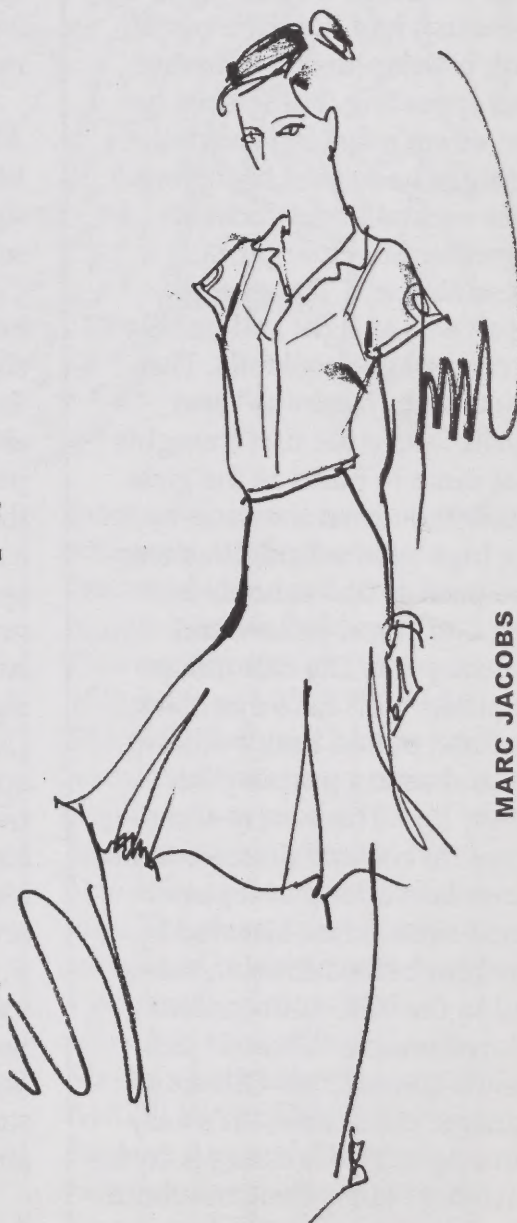
SPRING ACCESSORIES 2003

Accessory designers are in a lighthearted mood for spring. Taking their cues from RTW, designers are offering a sweetly feminine aesthetic using delicate floral patterns, embroidery, and embellishment to add a spark to fashion. Offsetting this are the ethnic and multicultural references that correspond to

spring's understated, sportive clothing.

FI decided to focus on footwear and handbag collections primarily, with an emphasis on new, offbeat, whimsical, or quirky collections. The following is a rundown of our picks for the season.

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MARC JACOBS

this season, and there are quite a few. Ms. Givhan is a longtime reporter at the *Washington Post*, widely acknowledged as one of most perceptive fashion writers in the industry.

THE DESIGNERS

MARC JACOBS

We've said it before, and we'll say it again, Marc Jacobs may be the only designer alive who can combine so many different retro elements into a single collection and have the result look both up-to-the-moment and appealing. For spring, he served up a fashion cocktail: fittingly, he named his colors after cocktails and cocktail ingredients — margarita, grenadine, etc. The overall result was as light and bubbly as champagne cocktails. The adjectives, "feminine" and "girlie" were the first thoughts that came to mind as the girls sauntered down the runway in sky high pointed stiletto shoes and peek-a-boo sandals in Day-Glo citron yellow and fuchsia pink. The '50s image persisted with cat's-eye black eyeliner, pulled back bouffant do, and candy purple-pink glossy lips. There were some beautiful cocktail dresses, with cream lace on top and pastel toned satin skirts, bisected by tiny bow belts. Mixed in was a nod to the '80s, with confetti colored boucle "Chanel" jackets and coats. Chris Gilbert of *Doneger* comments, "It's very amusing that he's doing Adolfo suits that Nancy Reagan would have liked, and could have

worn to lunch at La Caravelle." But, it wouldn't be a Marc Jacobs show without that now famous Jacobs edge that saved it from being saccharine sweet. Hemlines fell below the perfect oyster colored trench coats, and the polka dot print had a psychedelic quality to it rather than the prim polka dots one usually sees (Prada, the bowling bag collection). Even if they don't much fancy retro, his customer will want to snap up the baby colored cashmere cardigans, Mr. Jacobs perfect wrap front or double-breasted trench coats or one of the form hugging sheaths in lemon or margarita green satin.

ALEASE FISHER

Ms. Fisher is a practical designer — she designs for herself and her well-to-do friends. Consequently, it's no wonder her clothes are selling and that she's expanding her client base. Rather than show in the tents, she elected to show her latest pieces in the serene luxury of the Essex House. It was a bit of a surprise to walk in and see an eye-popping watermelon orange cabana suit in the suite's foyer. Ms. Fisher designed it as an experiment. Could the craftsmanship she applied to the luxurious brocades and piques she favors also be applied to terry cloth? Her answer: the terry cloth reversible cabana jacket, bound in cotton twill tape with pockets lined in gingham, was a resounding success as everyone who visited the suite stopped to admire and inquire about its availability.

Every season, Ms. Fisher designs a new dress. This season

it is the "X dress", in a rich cherry red that's flattering to most skin tones. The "X" is the refined cousin to the casual sundress. Says Ms. Fisher in a phone conversation: "It's about playing up the good bits, to design a sexy dress that's not tawdry. We're about refined sexy, about clothes that will enhance a woman. My collarbone still shows, and I want to show it off. The "X" shows off the collarbone and draws attention to your face. Queen Elizabeth always had these huge ruffs on her dress that drew attention to her arresting face. I'm very influenced by that and use extremely luxurious fabrics to create the modern day equivalent of a jacket or dress that draws the eye up to the face."

Fisher signatures are French cuffs, wasp waists and pique fabrics. A limited edition piece is the "couture Jean jacket" in white pique with floral embroidery. One piece she can't seem to keep in stock is her white pique blouse with French cuffs and bamboo toggle buttons. Another best seller is the 3040; a corset-like jacket (that gives the appearance of a wasp waist) with large cuffs.

Every season, there's always a matching jacket for a pulled together look as many of Ms. Fisher's customers travel and are "weird" about their upper arms. She's tried designing a dress with sleeves, but hasn't yet come up with one that she feels isn't "dumpy". Also new on the line, a cream eyelash halter with a tie that can be worn alone or over a white blouse.

THE IAS/INTIMA AMERICA POWERHOUSE

Spring Intimate Apparel

When the Intimate Apparel Salon announced a slated merger with Intima America, we were intrigued. For years, the Intimate Apparel Salon has provided buyers and press with a comprehensive look at the latest and best of the intimate apparel market and now, with the 2003 addition of Intima America, the choices will be even greater. Frankly, this is one trade show no savvy merchant can afford to pass up. The array is vast with an emphasis on higher-end merchandise aimed at the specialty store. As Roland Bleinroth, president of Messe Frankfurt (producer of Intima America) stated, "We believe this cooperation will serve to create a truly unique showcase in New York, while consolidating the number of industry events at the same time."

COSABELLA offered a beautiful range of inner/outerwear pieces with a decidedly feminine slant. Standouts included the fine Leavers lace corset and camisole from the Verona group; the double layered tulle crop pants and cap sleeve top from the Lollipop group and a

Russian inspired motif print stretch viscose range of daywear pieces. On a more contemporary note, d.LUXE PAJAMAS offered whimsical sanded cotton classic sleepwear. We loved the pastel Toile Rose, Mini Bouquet, and Paisley printed pajamas with their delicate pocket and cuff detailing. Coordinating solid knit tanks and tees add a novel twist when paired with printed pajama bottoms. ZAZA's debut lingerie collection features flirty items with a Brazilian/European sex appeal. The collection consists of two daywear lines: Ipanema and Portofino. The former, in comfortable microfiber, comes in

luscious shades of melon, pink and aqua, while the latter features lace edged stretch tulle in pale blue and old rose. Provencal prints are the order of the day at MOODS/ PAUL MAYER. Designer Mayer has translated the cheery cotton poplin prints used on his eponymous shoe line to his new robe and sleepwear collection. The classic shawl collared robe lined in rich cotton terry is a winner in pink, wheat or aqua. We've sketched it with Mayer's matching slip-ons. At ANGELIE SLEEPWEAR by dana-co Apparel Group, we saw delicate charmeuse sleep gowns and pajamas detailed

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PAUL MAYER

NARCISO RODRIGUEZ

It's been a while since a designer has garnered such wholehearted praise across the board. Chris Gilbert enthuses, "He does what he always does, it's modern but it's a modernity that's not mired in overt retro." Robin Givhan raves, "Rodriguez's collection was a sweet reward for those who believe that fashion continues to evolve, and that its future will be better than its past. These are smart clothes. They may be the best that New York has to offer for spring 2003."

Mr. Rodriguez worked with primarily black and white and cut to fit a woman's form. His designs are unquestionably sexy, but fall short of being vulgar. The erogenous zone is the midriff. A slim belt to show off toned torsos bisects sheer panels of fabric. The bare shouldered dresses just grazed the knee, in contrast to the overtly sexy numbers at other collections featuring sky high hemlines. Matte red lips, pulled back hair, and high heeled pumps contributed to the ladylike effect. Even the usually modest chemise dress looked sultry when worked by Mr. Rodriguez. Barely visible vertical stripes on many of the outfits pulled the eye down, creating an elongated, elegant silhouette.

ALICE ROI

Sex gets attention, and sex sells. Designers who began long before Ms. Roi, such as Dolce & Gabbana, have proven

that this is so. Backstage after her show, Ms. Roi tossed out some key words that she feels are germane to her work. "Form is really intriguing to me, and the contrast of what is symmetric and asymmetrical and, of course, color."

To set the mood for her show, Ms. Roi looked back to the '70s for inspiration. What came out on the runway were super short hemlines, lots of hot pantsuits, as well as palazzo

pants and hipster skin tight cigarette pants. There was even an interesting scuba pantsuit in moss with a '70s style pull zipper for the woman who's truly "comfortable in her skin". White was dominant, as was a pretty oyster shade. Interesting details were precise, geometric bows used as trim detail on jacket collars, and raffia embroidery on pant hems, bikinis and a sheer black peignoir.

NARCISO RODRIGUEZ



CONVERSATIONS

For fall 2003 trends, Part I, we spoke with two experts, each with a unique perspective, Alexandra Kelley, the Director of Development at Huepoint Color, a prestigious color forecasting company based in NY City, and Roseann Forde, Dupont's Fashion Marketing Director.

Huepoint

Ms. Kelley went over the colors in her fall'03 color ranges in order of importance, relative to customer response. Huepoint broke fall'03 in May, June and July and reorders had been coming in as late as September. Ms. Kelley and her team began doing the early preliminary work for spring '04 in October.

1. **"Wild hearts"**: Huepoint's continuation of the girlie layering look that's been popular for several seasons. When designing this color range, Ms. Kelley says they had in mind "that vagabond girl who combines new stuff and vintage stuff". Most popular are "azzura" (a slate-y teal blue), "girl pink" (Barbie pink) and "purple folly" (a punchy periwinkle).

2. **"Buckskin"**: This group is very denim related and has a slight western influence, but it's not truly western wear. It's more applicable to distressed fabrics, wonderful synthetic shearling and leather, and new soft polyester suede that's knit on the back.

Ms. Kelley notes that the Anthropology chain did a lot of these sorts of clothes. This look, she adds, was seen in a lot of the junior lines. The strongest colors are "rancher blue" (a muted purple slate blue), "Colorado red" (russet red) followed by "Appaloosa brown" (a rich medium brown) and "lonesome lake" (rich aqua blue-green). Interesting are the contrasting colors, for instance, a floral print of "lonesome lake" flowers on an orange-red background ("apple cider").

3. **"Authentic Outdoors"**: "A tip of the hat to the '80s," explains Ms. Kelley. "Here we see the influence of sportswear in athletic inspired stripes (which were huge on the spring'03 runways) and the color blocking, in particular, slatey mineral blues contrasted with black and white, very popular in the '80s. The colors in this range work well. Black is still there and although a lot of people want color by their face, they will always wear black pants," maintains Ms. Kelley. "But," she continues, "people are sick of all black and manufacturers are making a mistake by producing things in all black. What is important are modern graphics and other patterns like multicolored sweaters, "really anything that is a graphic rendition". "Quest red" (orange-red) and "Douglas fir" (a very dark fir green) were very important in this range, and "proton blue" (medium denim blue) was also really strong.

4. **"Norwegian Wood"**: The range splits into neutrals and four colors that all work together. These make good colors for tops and shirts. Although "Lapland peach" (a neutral peach one sees in makeup palettes) was strong early on, the strongest colors turned out to be "deepwoods" and "satin moss" (a dark and lighter green) that evoke a "back to the forest neutral feeling".

As a bonus, Ms. Kelley gave us a preview of holiday and cruise. In main, this "innocent color story", referred to as "born yesterday" features pretty pastels that have some punch to them, and would look particularly well in light cashmeres, and in argyle, stripe or Nordic patterns. Ms. Kelley reports that the "born yesterday" grouping "was unbelievably popular" and that everyone really reacted to "freshest lilac" (lavender, but with none of the fussiness usually associated with this shade) "clementina" (a clear light to medium orange) and "droplet" (a pale federal blue). Of these colors, "freshest lilac" got the strongest response.

The other holiday/cruise color range was "Troika", a Russian inspired color story featuring plums and rosy shades. Ms. Kelley says these colors are really great for sweaters. Most favorably received were "rouse red" (a cinnamon-y red), "claret" (a burgundy with a hint of purple), "evergrape" (a strong true purple), and "Siberian olive" (an olive that lacks the drab tones that olive typically has). Looking even one season further forward, for spring '04, Ms. Kelley anticipates seeing the tiny liberty of London prints going strong, as

NANCY NANCY; A funky yet sophisticated division of Nancy Geist has sporty city sandals in neutral toned leathers with grommet accents and stacked heels, plus pretty suede open toe slides, paisley print sandals and retro inspired t-strap flats.

THE SAK: This contemporary handbag company gets off to a strong start with the launch of their footwear line. Outstanding thongs and sandals feature organic detailing, sophisticated colors and unexpected leather/fabric combinations. Case in point is the leather thong with wood bead detail, the ankle tied sandal with wood beads and leather toe loop, and a cork soled platform crisscross sandal. The Sak handbag collection plays up modern shapes with intriguing patterns and freshly styled details, such as wood bead fringe, braided leather trims and pretty prints. Standouts include the chic rattan baskets with signature Tightweave drawstring pouch, the subtly striped knit totes with cotton ribbon trim and the sleek leather crescent bag with a new brass "O" ring and braided straps.

LULU GUINNESS: One of the wittiest handbag collections by a top British designer. Charm abounds in her rose floral print bag with double leather straps, the floral brocade pouch, and the "Vespa" appliquéd tote. The whimsical Carmen Miranda straw basket is a retro delight and a must-have for summer fun. Guinness extends

LULU GUINNESS



THE SAK

her range to a brand new shoe collection with the same whimsical appeal. We loved the red leather Mary Jane flats, the polka dot summer wedge slides, and the retro floral brocade peep toe high heel strappy shoes.

H. & M.: This giant Swedish retailer offers the top trends of the season at a price. Ethnic, multicultural references abound for spring/summer

dressing. Standouts include the cross-stitched pastel floral natural canvas, wicker handled bag and the offbeat '50s inspired print sun hat with matching cotton sling hobo in olive/khaki/teal.

DSA: Another affordable handbag line that taps into the key trends. For spring, focus on the painted floral straw East/West totes with natural tan handles;

VINTAGE COLLECTOR

One are the days when vintage clothing and accessories were worn by a select few individuals who wanted to make a personal if unique fashion statement. FI has watched this trend take hold in the mainstream over the past few years. Vintage collecting has become big business with major department stores opening special in-store boutiques devoted to vintage. From affordably priced accessories to top of the line couture extravaganzas, this reporter made the rounds of the top sources for vintage.

FI started out at Saks Fifth Avenue's vintage couture caravan, co-hosted with Doyle New York, celebrating the opening of the first Didier Ludot vintage couture boutique outside of France. Here we noted some magnificent '60s Chanel suits, and iconic Courreges dresses and coats in pristine condition. The event drew a full crowd of shoppers eager for complimentary on-site appraisals of apparel, costume jewelry and accessories. Following this, specialists Linda Donahue and Jan Glier Reeder from Doyle's couture department held a slide presentation and lecture on collecting vintage. Topic highlights included a decade by decade run-through of the most popular designers in the vintage couture market and the resale value of their fashions, as well as the current auction market for

couture. As part of the event, approximately 25 highlights from Doyle's couture sale were featured in Saks Fifth Avenue windows.

Our next foray was to the auction itself. Held twice a year, the auctions have become a valuable source for the vintage dealer as well as the layman. While we

noted a vast and impressive selection of clothing, accessories and textiles, the following designer items caught our eye: Galanos' black velvet sheath, circa 1985; Roberto Capucci's fur trimmed plaid wool coat; the Fortuny Delphos dresses; Hermes' sang de bouf color top handled calf bag and the black alligator handbag from the '50s.

Our next stop took us to the Manhattan Vintage Clothing Show at the Metropolitan Pavilion. Here we got an up close look at 40 of the nation's finest

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ROBERTO CAPUCCI

well as some traditional Nordic prints.

Dupont

On opening her fall presentation, "Personal Appeal," Ms. Forde, who spends a sizeable amount of her time researching the latest trends overseas, remarked that attendance was way down at PV (Premiere Vision fabric fair in Paris). "The French" she says, "shot themselves in the foot by not allowing the Turkish manufacturers into PV. Consequently, the Turkish organized their own show, which was well attended." Ms. Forde attributes this to people now being very price conscious while fabric shopping.

This time, Ms. Forde's three categories seemed closer to one another than in past years.

1. "Establishment dressing": which she describes as "a return of people getting a little more dressed up to go to work." Of special importance is the return of the jacket and the suit, but these are jackets with a twist. There are high collars, asymmetric cuts, and suits that are a little more glamorous, such as a matte brown fabric pantsuit paired with a shiny satin shirt. The menswear element is always present in this category. Some pieces Ms. Forde showed to illustrate her point are a Kookai black men's jacket with ruches where the buttons would be, and a \$40 skirt with leather zipper insets and flair in the middle (black with Vuitton element). Suits are far from boring. She showed slides of

suits featuring belt and buckle detailing, Eisenhower jackets with a soft relaxed stretch at Prada, and sculpted jackets at Calvin Klein. Pants have also gotten a lot of attention, and Ms. Forde showed a wide variety of them: Pants with the variegated pinstripes, and a pair with vertical stripes (across the legs), which she predicts will be a trend for men going into spring 2004. Color-wise, for this grouping, she is partial to offbeat autumnal and accent colors such as tea rose and celadon.

"Shirtdressing", she says, "has been reinvented and one can find them made up in mannish styles in Lycra and cotton as well as in a preponderance of patterns for the younger market. Not surprisingly, we've seen the return of the vest the past two seasons."

2. "Origins and originals":

"multicultural influences done in a wearable way". This is for the woman who travels the world and brings back bits to make it her own. She is feminine, whimsical, and has a talent for putting it all together. Ms. Forde's mannequin was dressed in a wrap asymmetric nylon skirt (wrap skirts seem to be coming back) and a handmade scarf of printed-mesh that's layered over another print. Popular fabrics in this group are jacquards (the Portuguese are pricier than those from Taiwan). Another popular choice is sueded fabric done up in bronze with metallic hints of color. Ms. Forde liked the mini apron she saw at Girbaud, which is a very hot item in Japan. She calls it "a takeoff on the karate theme". Many come with decorative stitching which give them a

handmade look.

Denim has been renewed (the fabric that has over 1000 lives!). This time denim is blocked with another fabric and hook and eye closures as a new detail. The idea of dimension was an important one. Rich, heavy fabrics such as brown corduroy pants are embroidered with eyelet and a cream jersey is trimmed with Irish Fisherman (wool) neck and cuffs. Also of note are the return of the cargo pant and the continuing trend of wearing light as air floral dresses with winter furs and accessories. Here are some of these trends as seen at some important design houses: Gaultier's colorful jacquards, Missoni's unlikely patterns with baroque top and striped knit pant, Matthew Williamson's skirts transformed by stripes and sheer window pane chiffon, and wrap and tie sweatercoats.

3. "Everyday chic": It's official, it's now OK to wear white in the winter. Ms. Forde informed her audience that winter white has made it onto the color card made up by the Color Association of the USA. This grouping appeals to "the woman who embodies style as a matter of course and who likes to experiment with the new, glamorous and cutting edge."

Athleticism keeps going strong and is a valid trend that was legitimized by the Yohji/Adidas partnership. Ms. Forde showed a black skirt matched with ruches on a crisscross top that had an athletic band on the hem in black and white. There's

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MARKET DATES 2003



SUMMER/TRANSITION

NEW YORK	OCT. 27-NOV. 7, 2003
ATLANTA	JAN. 30—FEB. 3
CHICAGO	JAN. 24-28
DALLAS	JAN. 23-27
LOS ANGELES	JAN. 17-21
FT. LAUDERDALE	JAN. 23-26



FALL I

NEW YORK	JAN.	6-17
ATLANTA	APRIL	3-7
CHICAGO	MAR.	22-25
DALLAS	MAR.	27-31
LOS ANGELES	APRIL	4-8
FT. LAUDERDALE	MAR.	28-30



FALL II/HOLIDAY

NEW YORK	FEB.	3-21 (FALL II ONLY)
ATLANTA	JUNE	19-23
CHICAGO	JUNE	6-10
DALLAS	MAY	29-JUNE 2
LOS ANGELES	JUNE	6-10
FT. LAUDERDALE	JUNE	7-9



RESORT

NEW YORK	JUNE	2-13
ATLANTA	AUG.	21-25
CHICAGO	AUG.	22-26
DALLAS	AUG.	14-18
LOS ANGELES	AUG.	8-12
FT. LAUDERDALE	AUG.	8-11

***IMPORTANT
NEW YORK
HAS TWO
ADDITIONAL
MARKETS:**

**HOLIDAY:
APRIL 7-18
SPRING I:
AUG. 4-15**



SPRING

NEW YORK	SEPT.	8-26
ATLANTA	OCT.	16-20
CHICAGO	OCT.	18-21
DALLAS	OCT.	23-27
LOS ANGELES	OCT.	31-NOV. 4
FT. LAUDERDALE	OCT.	9-12

EXPLORATIONS

Catch Me If You Can-Can

"Femme Fatale" is the first exhibition at FIT to explore the sexual politics of women's fashion in turn-of-the-century Paris, a time when actresses and courtesans set the style, and corsets were the answer to the modern day spa. On view are over 50 haute couture dresses, tea gowns and other beautiful ensembles from the late 19th century, all relying heavily on a corseted figure. This exhibit provides an up-close look at the changes in women's fashions of the period, featuring designers such as Doucet, Paquin, Poiret, and Worth.

Upon entering the gallery and viewing an early 1900's Emile Pingot afternoon/dinner dress in black silk velvet, the viewer is struck by how necessary the corset was to transforming the figure. Women, whose well-being depended on dressing for attention, knew the importance of appearing petite and well formed, as well as making an entrance. The exquisite pieces that made up their wardrobe were often far from demure. Fine examples of these memorable pieces were a heavily ornamented evening dress in silk velvet lace and glass beads by Emile Pasquier, and a 1919 harem costume

comprising a tunic made of crusted silver gauze and red chiffon trousers. Quite different from the above was a peach silk velvet evening dress with an art nouveau design of embroidered sequins and lace by Jacques Doucet. Softer and more ladylike, this piece may have been worn by anyone of several of Doucet's clients. Among these were actresses and courtesans as well as the Astors and Vanderbilts.

Of the beautiful designs from the House of Worth, the most vibrant and superb was an evening dress in red silk velvet and tulle, the very definition of the femme fatale. The power of this dress is reminiscent of the scene from "Gone With The Wind," when Scarlet, dressed in another unforgettable red dress, takes on the persona of the fallen woman. Evoking danger and sex, she pulls all eyes to her. Also notable from Worth was a more demure 1880's afternoon dress, a dark brown silk satin with polychrome floral silk brocade fitted bodice and floor length skirt. Another example of delicate femininity was the 1890 dressing gown made of white cotton batiste and Valenciennes lace. So rarefied



MAINBOCHER
from the BLITHE SPIRIT EXHIBITION

were Worth pieces, it was said, to view them a woman required a formal introduction.

Adding to this exhibition, the walls of the gallery are decorated with post cards and illustrations of the era, including a poster of actress Sarah Bernhardt. On display are also excellent examples of *de rigueur* accessories: intricately hand painted fans, shoes, and pale pink satin boots circa 1890-1900 from the United States. However, of all the accessories, one entrance-maker, using wit and a sense of fun, as well as an interesting use of taxidermy, perfectly adheres to the fashion dictates of the *femme fatale* — a hat of black silk velvet trimmed in full-bodied parakeets!

Femme Fatale
Fashion and Visual Culture in
Fin-de-Siecle Paris
10/21/2002-1/25/2003
The Museum at the Fashion
Institute of Technology
Hours: Tues. – Fri., Noon-
8:00PM Sat., 10:00AM-5:00PM
Contact: 217-5800.

Fashion In The World Of The
Windsors

One of the most interesting couples of our time, The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, are again the topic of conversation. Viewing them through their love of and obsession with fashion, "Blithe Spirit: The Windsor Set" is an insightful study of the Windsors and their elite circle of playmates. In the five or so years preceding WWII, a time

when much of the world was either in the midst of or mobilizing for war, they were the elegant dressers and fashion icons of the time. Curator Andrew Bolton's examination of their carefree lifestyle includes over 80 items featuring fashions by designers such as Elsa Schiaparelli, Chanel, Lanvin et al, worn by the Windsors and others of their social set. There are also photographs by Man Ray, Horst, and Cecil Beaton; drawings by Dali and Cocteau; and furniture of the period.

Upon entering the main room the stage is set by a beautiful 1939 Mainbocher evening dress that was worn by the Duchess of Windsor. Black silk taffeta, embroidered with glass beads and gold sequins, the gown is displayed beside its picture, a Cecil Beaton photograph of the Duchess taken for *British Vogue*. Among other standouts is a Lucien Lelong ivory silk organza dress and an orange silk velvet evening jacket (bodice) by Alix Gres that is eye-catching for its grand color. Exceptional too is a wonderful ultra-feminine Jeanne Paquin dress in white silk chiffon, printed and appliquéd with red and gray poppies.

Not to be outdone by his female counterparts, the Duke of Windsor, proves to have an equal fascination with fashion and form. Surprisingly small in stature, he was very conscious of his image. However, he seemed to place an equal value on comfort. This penchant for comfort directly contributed to baggy plus fours, which were usually worn when hunting or participating in sports. Finding the traditional version, with

below the knee fastenings, to be uncomfortable, his tailors designed a loose fitting style with a soft cotton lining. One of these in beige/black/red wool stands not far from his dark blue evening suit. Thinking that dark blue would create an illusion of height, he introduced this midnight blue version as an alternative to the conventional black. In this not to be missed room, devoted solely to the Windsor's, a newsreel of his abdication speech, playing in the background, brings Edward VIII into sharp focus.

However, the essence of these blithe spirits and the end of their way of life is even more finely drawn in the last gallery. Although filled with glamorous evening gowns like the Elsa Schiaparelli evening dress in orange silk organza with metallic stripes, the most memorable item is the final display. The Metropolitan Museum exhibition closes with a video of future events coupled with an audio excerpt from a speech given by Winston Churchill June 18, 1940:

"...Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will say, 'This was their finest hour.'"

"Blithe Spirits: The Windsor Set"
11/1/2002-2/9/2003
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue (82ND Street)
Hrs: Monday closed; Tues-
Thurs. & Sun, 9:30AM-5:30PM;
Sat., 9:30AM-9PM.
Contact: 212-535-7710.

INTERNATIONAL DATELINE 2003

JAN. 4-6 ORLANDO, FL
INT'L GIFT & DECORATIVE
ACCESSORIES SHOW

JAN. 5-7 NEW YORK
FEMME (Womenswear/
Accessories)

JAN. 5-7 NEW YORK
ACCESSORIESTHESHOW
(Spring/Summer Accessories)

JAN. 5-7 NEW YORK
MODA MANHATTAN
(Designer Spring/Summer RTW)

JAN. 6-10 NEW YORK
ACCESSORY MARKET

JAN. 6-10 NEW YORK
INTIMATE APPAREL MARKET

JAN. 6-18 NEW YORK
WOMEN'S (Fall I) MARKET

JAN. 9-12 FLORENCE
PITTI IMMAGINE UOMO
(Menswear)

JAN. 10-13 ATLANTA
GIFT FAIR

JAN. 12-14 NEW YORK
ACCESSORIE CIRCUIT
(Spring/Summer Accessories)

JAN. 12-14 NEW YORK
INTERMEZZO
(Designer Spring/Summer RTW)

JAN. 12-14 NEW YORK
THE CHILDREN'S CLUB
(Spring/Early Fall Childrenswear)

JAN. 12-14 NEW YORK
THE ANNEX
(Spring II/Summer Designer
RTW/Acc.)

JAN. 12-14 NEW YORK
SOURCE INT'L
(Footwear/Leathergoods
Sourcing)

JAN. 12-15 NEW YORK
NATIONAL RETAIL
FEDERATION
ANNUAL CONVENTION

JAN. 12-19 VICENZA, ITALY
VICENZA ORO TRADE FAIR
(Fine Jewelry)

JAN. 14-15 NEW YORK
SURFACE
(Seminar on Fashion Trends &
Industry Topics sponsored by
Direction)

JAN. 14-16 NEW YORK
DIRECTION
(Int'l Textile Design Show)

JAN. 14-16 NEW YORK
PRINTSOURCE
(Textiles)

JAN. 14-17 HONG KONG
FASHION WEEK

JAN. 14-17 HONG KONG
WORLD BOUTIQUE
(Premiere RTW/Accessory Show)

JAN. 17-20 LOS ANGELES
THE ANNEX
(Designer Spring II/Summer
RTW/Acc)

JAN. 17-21 LOS ANGELES
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S
MARKET
(Summer)

JAN. 17-21 DALLAS
INT'L GIFT & HOME
ACCESSORIES

JAN. 17-19 FLORENCE
PITTI IMMAGINE BIMBO
(Childrenswear)

JAN. 17-20 MILAN
CHIBI & CHIBI MART
(Perfume, Jewelry, Gifts, Crafts, Silver)

JAN. 17-21 MADRID
BISUTEX (Fashion Jewelry,
Accessories)

JAN. 17-21 MADRID
IBERJOYA (Jewelry, Silverware,
Watches)

JAN. 17-21 MADRID
INTERGIFT (Int'l Gift Fair)

JAN. 18-21 NEW YORK
ASD/AMD'S VARIETY
MERCHANDISE SHOW
(Accessories, Apparel, Jewelry)

JAN. 18-21 LOS ANGELES
LOS ANGELES GIFT SHOW

JAN. 19-20 LOS ANGELES
SHOE SHOW

JAN. 20-23 PARIS
WOMEN'S COUTURE SHOWS

JAN. 22-23 NEW YORK
EUROPEAN PREVIEW
(Fabrics Spring/Summer 2004)

JAN. 24-26 VALENCIA, ITALY
FIMI
(Children's & Young People's
Fashions)

JAN. 24-27 TORONTO
INT'L GIFT FAIR

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JAN. 24-27 PARIS
BIJORHCA
(Costume/Fine Jewelry, Watches,
Tablewear, Gifts)

JAN. 24-27 PARIS
SALON DE LA LINGERIE
(Intimate Apparel)

JAN. 24-27 PARIS
INTERFILIERE
(Trimmings for Lingerie &
Swimwear)

JAN. 24-27 PARIS
NOUVEAU SEHM
(Int'l Men's RTW)

JAN. 24-27 PARIS
READY-TO-WEAR (Women's)

JAN. 24-27 PARIS
WHO'S NEXT
(Junior/Streetwear)

JAN. 24-27 PARIS
PREMIERE CLASSE
(Accessories)

JAN. 25-27 DALLAS
MEN'S & BOYS' MARKET

JAN. 24-28 CHICAGO
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S
MARKET
(Summer/Fall Preview)

JAN. 25-28 PARIS
MEN'S RUNWAY SHOWS

JAN. 26-28 NEW YORK
THE COLLECTIVE
(Fall/Winter 2003 Menswear/
Accessories)

JAN. 26-28 TORONTO
THE MODE ACCESSORIES
SHOW
(Spring/Summer Women's RTW/
Accessories)

JAN. 26-28 BIRMINGHAM, UK
PREMIER KIDS (Children's Fair)

JAN. 26-29 WASHINGTON, D.C.
GIFT SHOW

JAN. 29-30 LILLE, FRANCE
TISSU (Fabrics)

JAN. 30-FEB. 3 ATLANTA
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S
MARKET
(Summer)



MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH JOY
AND GOOD WILL
AND MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING
PEACE

The Staff of
Fashion International

the charming take on the classic Bermuda bag, knitted in white with multicolored floral embroidery and whip stitching; and the distressed leather flap-over bag with matte silver closure.

COLE HAAN: In their extensive collection, note the casual leather "Palm Springs" soft pouch; two-tone sunrise straw flower tote and mini bag; and the East/West flap, in straw with tonal floral appliqué detail. The molded heel flats in offbeat shades of avocado, bone or peach calf are equally charming. Also chic are kitten heeled calf slides, sophisticated alligator pumps, and sporty neutral toned city sandals.

CHE CHE: This newcomer shows delicate handbags and accessories for the young and trendy. Key looks include the crusty beaded bags; the vintage framed pouches in seed beads with bracelet wristbands, and the quirky totes with conversational appliqué embellishments.

HELEN KAMINSKI: This wizard of Oz, has expanded her collection to include a range of easy summer totes, all purpose market bags and slings in an assortment of fashion colors to coordinate with her signature raffia and fabric hats. Kaminski's woven calfskin, wicker and canvas bags, and carryalls can be dressed up or down for maximum versatility.

ROCKPORT: The collection is synonymous with casual elegance. Highlights for spring include the nubuck thong and chunky slide from the Piedmont group in neutral colors. These have foam or latex contoured footbeds for the ultimate in comfort.

CECILE & JEANNE PARIS: This French duo has a unique and sophisticated approach to jewelry design. New to the U.S. market, the collection fills a void in the upscale jewelry sector. Standouts include chunky resin necklaces, and the pewter based gilded or silvered, free form, surrealistic brooches and necklaces, signed with their signature trademark crystal rhinestone, and often finished with a dove symbolizing peace.

WATCHES WITH A VINTAGE FLAIR

The increasing interest in vintage has encouraged companies spanning sectors from fashion to lifestyle to rethink, reintroduce, and remarket their past successes: watch companies are no exception. Panerai and Corum are among these manufacturers reintroducing updated takes on their unique classics.

OFFICINE PANERAI began making watches for the Italian Navy in 1938. The Radiomir was the first diving watch made and, according to the company, its design was "highly confidential". For 55

years, they continued to make their watches for military use only until, in 1993, the Panerai timepieces were made available to the public. Today, the watches are broken down into three categories: Historic, Contemporary and Special Edition.

This year, there are two new limited edition watches from which to choose. Of particular interest is the Panerai Luminor Blackseal. Two Italian frogmen in action are engraved on the watch's brushed steel cover. The striking hand-engraved image also appears on the watch's

dial face. The case and bezel have been updated and are made of titanium, rather than stainless steel. All in all, it's a very rugged watch. For those collectors seeking a bit of flash, there is the Panerai Luminor Marina Gold 18-carat sports watch. The large 44-millimeter case is formed from a single block of 18-carat gold. Only 150 are being produced — definitely a collector's item!

CORUM's designer and Brand President, Severin Wunderman, looked back to one of the house's original designs, the "Admiral's Cup" watch, introduced in the early '60s. Updated over the years, the watch has evolved into a twelve-sided case with enam-

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Ms. Roi gave a short sleeve '50s style bouffant belted dress a kick by cutting it out of a platinum and white hound's-tooth print, complete with a plunging v-front. Hand-painted items were everywhere this season, and Ms. Roi obliged with a short black kimono with beige orchids, lending to fashion's continued fascination with bohemia and the exotic.

LILLY PULITZER

When one thinks of Lilly, one thinks "color, color, color!" Nothing new for Lilly, but her customers are sure to love the shrunken little polo tees, which are decidedly more fashion forward than the standard boxy ones on the line every season. Prep is traditionally not sexy, but the styling at this show certainly was, although always in good taste. Sixties bouffant hair, natural glowing healthy face and glossy lips — pretty as could be.

Lilly also hopped on the bandwagon and showed some caftans. Designers seem to be getting the message that baby boomer consumers want to be comfortable. There were plenty of form-fitting numbers, namely snug clam diggers in a signature hot pink/white print and teensy hot pink terry shorts, worn with

tan strappy stiletto heels. She also hit on the athletic wear trend and sent-out some sporty terry cloth and hooded jackets, and short shorts. For swim, Lilly went racy (for her) showing a cutout one-piece bathing suit and off-the-shoulder pink blouse with a green bottom in that perennial favorite pink and green color combination.

ALLEGRA HICKS

Relatively new on the scene, society designer **Allegra Hicks** hit squarely on fashion's continued fascination with bohemia. Her take was very reminiscent of that famous black and white photograph taken of Paul and Talitha Getty that legitimized the robed hippie look for this crowd. Colors were slate blue and campari red, and the African inspired fabrics worked well for her flare sleeve caftans.

CLOSING SPRING 2003

To close our spring coverage, we asked our two experts, Chris Gilbert and Robin Givhan, to highlight some other notable moments of the spring 2003 season.

Lilly was by no means the only one to go for the "athleisure" look. The "athleisure" trend was everywhere," Mr. Gilbert notes. "People like Michael Kors and Herrera showed track jacket polo shirts, tank tops, rugby

striping, and track pants. It started off as a street level thing in NY and London that was very hot and filtered up to the designer level. A good example of this trend taking hold is the collaboration between Yohji and Adidas. Athleisure/sport fabrics perform and function and relate into everyday life."

Ralph Lauren's collection was high on Gilbert's list: "Ralph Lauren's collection had to be one of the most talked about New York collections this season. Retailers and editors were charmed by Mr. Lauren's latest/most recent take on the Wild West. He mixed denims with paper florals (wallpaper striped jackets with very beaten-up destroyed denims), which doesn't sound like the safe Ralph his customers know and love. But core customers needn't fear, there are beautiful white linen suits."

Ms. Givhan, in agreement with Mr. Gilbert, uses "artfully created civility" as the phrase to convey the mood of Mr. Lauren's latest endeavor. "There was a shabby chic quality, which is where Ralph fit in. Things were not too sweet. The colors were great — pastels were used for tailored sportswear, giving them a soft look."

eled nautical pennants on the bezel. This design, patented in 1982, symbolizes those pennants traditionally used for maritime signaling. They correspond to the numbers 1-

12 and give the watch a distinctive look. Very interesting are the additional features that indicate the times of the ebb and flow tides, the force of the daily tide in relation to

the phases of the moon, and an estimation of the height of the water and the force of the currents.

dealers. The show, timed to coincide with holiday shopping, offered a slew of collectibles at all price ranges. While we saw a variety of items, from kitsch to couture, the following are some of the highlights.

DAYBREAK: dresses from the '20s and '30s, and fun Lucite handbags from the '50s.

PATRICIA JON: lavish costume jewelry, especially the glittery rhinestone pins, and a fabulous vanity table set from the '50s.

LA VIE EN ROSE: charming Edwardian girls' dresses and coats.

HOLLYWOOD & VINE: top of the line French and American couture dresses from the '30s-'50s. We loved the magnificent emerald satin, strapless Christian Dior cocktail dress from the '50s.

TOP HAT: fun, structured '60s coats and dresses in crayola colors. A one-of-a-kind snake/lamb coat and gorgeous Chanel shoes also caught our eye.

METROPOLIS: charming antique cameo brooches, and Victorian jet jewelry. Also chic — the vintage Trifari and Hattie Carnegie costume jewelry.

ROXIE TAYLOR: a chic top handled bag in white ostrich and the range of vintage Etienne Aigner handbags.

PESTA: everything from tooled leather handbags, to compacts, hatboxes and luggage.

JAMIE BROWN: an exquisite collection of Hermes handbags and Chanel jewelry, plus classic alligator pumps from Harel of Paris.

ODDS & ADS: vintage fashion and travel posters and a three-piece hard-sided green luggage set for the '50s traveler.

MARILYN HITCHCOCK:

Bakelite bracelets and cute celluloid Scotty dog pins from 1920.

EEVALINA: kitschy gold and silver strappy '30s era evening slippers.

DAYBREAK: everything from '50s black taffeta cocktail dresses to an ethnic embroidered batiste dress, and a group of colorful '50s Mexican circle skirts in a variety of cheery prints.

TATIANA: a fabulous Koos Van den Akker coat in his signature fur/wool/ patchwork collage, plus a group of silk designer scarves.

DIVINE FINDS: whimsical vintage bags from cut velvets to mesh, Lucite, plastic and needlepoint.

Next, FI attended two lectures on fine and couture jewelry as part of Doyle's "Focus on Style" series. In "The Couture Accessory," fashion historian Caroline Milbank explored the world of couture objects. According to Ms. Milbank, "Collecting is a growing movement. The pace of purchasing has quickened and the tendency is to acquire more. Collectors don't wait anymore, they snap up key accessory pieces from modern designers." Since there will always be a client for couture pieces what does it make sense to collect now? Collect great pieces from the past or future stars; visual cues (i.e. base a collection on something specific like op art, etc.); and everything by Schiaparelli, Tom Ford for YSL, Ugo Corriani, even some of Alexander McQueen's "thorn" pieces. In short, anything that's beautifully made or has a designer stamp will become a collectible.

"Accessories are celebrities of the fashion world" stated Ms. Milbank, so FI took this to heart by next attending Doyle's lecture by Arlette Thebault, executive director of special projects for Chanel on "Chanel Fine Jewelry – Past, Present and Future". These are some of the interesting facts we learned: the two-tone shoe, quilted bag and camellia are all essential elements of Chanel style and are considered "eternal". Chanel's personal jewels were a constant source of inspiration when she collaborated on her jewelry collections with Duc Fulco di Verdura. These jewels never stood apart from the woman wearing them. And finally, a quote from Chanel herself, "diamonds represent the greatest worth in the smallest volume." It was evident to this reporter that judging by the gorgeous jewelry (introduced in 1993) we saw in the slide presentation, Chanel's innovative spirit is still very much alive.

No introduction to vintage collecting would be complete without a foray to Tiffany Dubin's LAIR at Henri Bendel. Here Ms. Dubin, the former founder and director of Sotheby's Fashion Department and author of a book on vintage style, has opened a unique, constantly changing in-store boutique. We found one-of-a-kind vintage and collectible home décor items, gifts and trinkets, and slews of out of print books and magazines. Coming up next will be a selection of vintage fabrics and wallpaper, pillows and lampshades — all proof that the rage for vintage collecting is here to stay.

with lace trim, and some travel worthy chiffon kimonos in the palest tints of ivory, pink and periwinkle. Another terrific travel item is the cotton gauze "slip-in-a-bag" from LAVENDER LADY. Other outstanding pieces include a cashmere bead-trimmed camisole and purple terry, side-slit caftan matching turban and scuffs.

Totally romantic is CLAIRE PETTIBONE's spring sleepwear/daywear collection inspired by the ballet. Highlights include her embroidered tulle gowns with point d'esprit overlay, a cross-dyed stretch lace chemise with champagne lace tulle skirt, and the ribbon and rose print stretch lace tee and Capri pants. Pettibone's new DREAM division focuses on contemporary day and

sleepwear in 100% cotton and cotton blends touched with exquisite laces. Lovely prints and tie-dyes make the collection truly eye catching. Outstanding — the aqua lily print separates from the Casablanca range. FERNANDO SANCHEZ continues to perfect his sophisticated brushed back satin loungewear. Highlights include a sleek cap sleeved long robe in pale peach/ice blue, adorable tank and drawstring shorts in sunshine/pale peach and a glamorous flowing caftan in sand/candle combination. PRIAMO produces delicate Italian cotton batiste gowns trimmed with English cotton lace in pale pastel tints for spring — perfect for a wedding trousseau. Also noteworthy are Priamo's imported white cotton voile dobby pajamas and gowns trimmed with lace. Last but not least is

the terrific new collection, KENNEDY INTIMATES. This intimate apparel company is designed for the fashion conscious pregnant woman! According to the designer, their nursing bras and matching underwear reflect high fashion with carefully designed and constructed styles such as the soft flannel lined bras and matching thongs in sky, princess pink or quiet green. There's also an adorable cherry print stretch cotton group and glamorous raw silk (cotton lined) "Camelot" bra, designed as a corset and cinched with French satin ribbon. Matching panties are fashioned in a soft mesh with ribbon trim.

"CONVERSATIONS"
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tremendous attention to detailing, such as a skirt that has a drawstring bottom and a flap-back waistband, and a pant that has buttons going from the hem to the calf. Also interesting were a pair of black pants with side leg opening that Ms. Forde suggested could be worn over flowered pantyhose.

This grouping is not just black and white though. High luster taupe is also important and Ms. Forde forecasts that brown and green will be important as well. Relevant fabrics are jacquards, novelty denims, sheer fabrications, suede, and Tadel metallica. These trends can be found in Fake London's pea

green-cross on black long sleeve tee with gray trim and ribbons, Armani's refined paper bag waist (the Amelia Earheart look), and Marc Jacobs' wrap-over sleeveless blouse and dropped skirt in metallic ruby.

One last note, for fall, Dupont is introducing a new fiber, "T-400" that has the element of relaxed stretch to it, which will come in handy as the consumer expects their clothes to be comfortable.

Part II of Conversations will appear in Issue I of 2003.

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